

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE INSPECTION

Nepera Chemical Company, Inc.
Route 17
Harriman, New York

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Participating Personnel:

Environmental Protection Agency
Kevin M. Burger, Environmental Scientist
Kenneth Gigliello, Environmental Scientist

Nepera Chemical Company, Inc.
Medhat Reiser, Regulatory Affairs Manager
Robert Denham, Attorney

Report Prepared by:

Kevin M. Burger
Kevin M. Burger, Environmental Scientist
Source Monitoring Section

Approved for the Director by:

Richard D. Spear
Richard D. Spear, Ph.D.
Chief, Surveillance & Monitoring Br.

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BACKGROUND

This site was referred to the Surveillance and Analysis Division by the Hazardous Waste Executive Committee. Sources of information contained in this report included Nepera Chemical Company officials and existing file information.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Nepera Chemical Company, Inc., Harriman, New York facility is an active chemical manufacturing plant. This facility is engaged in the manufacture of pyridine, niacin, niacinamide, picoline nitriles, picoline and various derivatives and intermediates. The site occupies an area of approximately 7 acres and has been in operation since the early 1940's. There are various waste materials associated with the operations conducted at this facility and they are handled in the following manner:

A. Noncontact cooling waters and boiler blow-down are discharged without treatment to the Ramapo River under SPDES Permit NY 000 6670.

B. Process related waste waters are neutralized and trucked to the Jersey City Sewage Treatment Authority. These waste waters are mainly associated with the niacin manufacturing operations and steam cleaning of waste storage drums.

C. Waste waters and still bottoms associated with pyridine and picoline manufacturing are stored in drums and used as fuel for the incinerator.

D. Waste tars associated with cyano pyridine manufacturing are the major waste problem associated with this facility. There are approximately 1000 drums of stockpiled waste tars waiting to be incinerated. Although this material is indicated to be a solid, some of the drums were in very poor shape with leakages evident. In addition, the drums are stored on a dirt surface with no impervious lining to prevent surface and possible subsurface contamination.

E. The majority of waste lab chemicals as well as waste solvents (nonhalogenated) are incinerated. Some, however, are disposed of via a state certified hauler.

NATURE OF SITE PROBLEMS

The major area of concern at this site is drum storage. There are approximately 9,000 drums on site which consist of raw materials, waste, intermediates, and products. Of the 9,000 drums, approximately 1000 are waste materials, the majority being waste tars from the cyano pyridine manufacturing. These drums of waste materials are stored on a dirt surface without an impervious lining. Several of these drums were observed to be leaking material onto the ground, while others were in poor condition.

There was also an air emission problem associated with this facility; however, this matter is being handled by the Air Facilities Branch.

DESCRIPTION OF SURROUNDING AREA

This site is located in a rural area. There are several private residences nearby and a regional kindergarten one-fourth of a mile from the facility.

GEOLOGY AND GROUNDWATER

There is no information available regarding geology and groundwater at this site.

STATUS OF STATE AND LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

There is local citizen concern regarding this site. NYDEC is not actively involved in any action regarding the site at this time.

DISCUSSION

The Nepera Chemical Company, Inc., Harriman, New York facility is considered to be a problem site. The area of concern which should be addressed is the Drum Storage Area. This facility should be required to store drummed materials on an impervious surface. In addition, a daily inspection program should be implemented for detecting leaky and corroding drums.

In summary, based upon all available information, this facility should be given a low priority rating.